

Melissa Fasano

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
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To: Melissa Fasano
Subject: Parish Update: April 25, 2023



Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit

By Laura Balogh, Family Faith Director

"Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

--John 20: 27-29



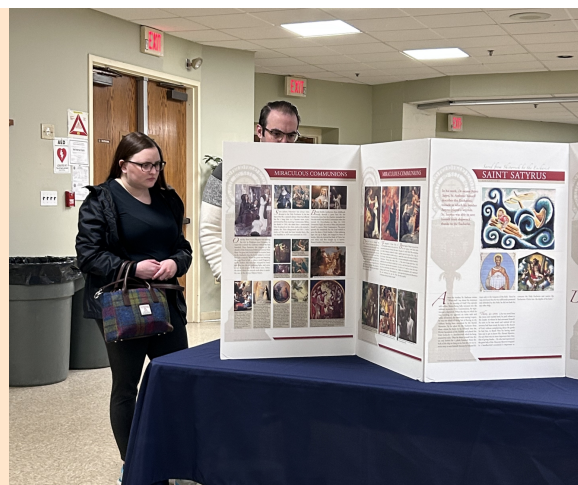
This past weekend, the Family Faith Formation Team sponsored the Vatican International Exhibit, **the Eucharistic Miracles of the World**, presenting some of the principal 152 Eucharistic Miracles that took place throughout the centuries in various countries of the world.

"I visited the Carlo Acutis exhibit on Sunday and was blown away by how many miracles were documented. I always knew miracles happened in different forms, but learning about the Eucharistic miracles God shows His people was beyond amazing. I encourage all to explore the many miracles God reveals to us, Eucharistic or otherwise." Christopher Dsouza, Yout Ministry Teen

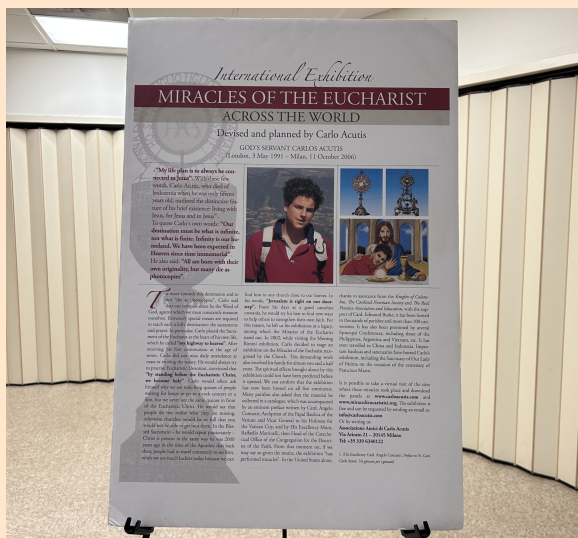


The event came highly recommended by Faith Formation Directors at St. Vincent DePaul in Stirling and St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in Sparta, based on the highly positive feedback the exhibit received in those parishes. We offer special thanks to Diane Striegel from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Boonton, NJ, who handles all of these materials and loans the exhibit to different parishes.

The exhibit's designer was **Blessed Carlo Acutis**, the Italian teenager (and first Millennial!) on the road to Sainthood, who was fascinated with Eucharistic miracles and technology. Bl. Carlo developed a website cataloging these miracles before his untimely death of leukemia at the age of 15 in 2006. He was beatified by Pope Francis in 2020.



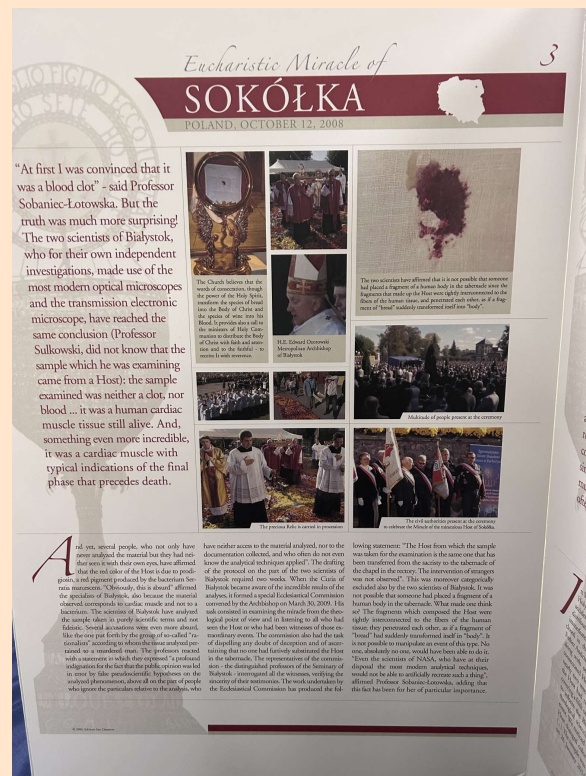
The topic is especially relevant given the 3-year Eucharistic Revival underway in the Church. Unfortunately, according to a Pew Research study, only one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Sacrament.



A relic of Blessed Carlo was also on display for veneration.



Eucharistic miracles are extraordinary events where the Eucharist no longer appears in the form of bread and wine but takes on the biological qualities of human flesh or blood or both. Most Eucharistic miracles involve incidences in which the Blessed Sacrament has transformed into human flesh and blood. Of course, as Catholics, we believe that the consecrated Host we receive each Sunday at Mass is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord, under the appearances of bread and wine. Therefore, Jesus, through these miracles, merely manifests His Presence in a more tangible way.





At the Family Mass and Contemporary Mass, Fr. Alex introduced the children and teens to Blessed Carlo and the meaning of relics in our Catholic faith.

"Many of the children stretched their necks to get a better look at the strands of hair in its special container. It was amazing to see this special exhibition of Miracles of the Eucharist through the wonder and curiosity of innocent children." Ann Bono

"My children really enjoyed the exhibit, although as we walked around reading, Braeden wanted to read about the miracle of Peter walking on water. My friend, who is from Mexico and was at Mass with us, explained to my kids (and her grandson) that she had been to Guadalupe and told them about that particular miracle. Mackenzie wants to know about the relic that Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel has within its walls. She has been interested in relics since we read up on Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. She was disappointed to find out that the relic in church Sunday was only visiting, not the relic permanently within Notre Dame. I love that they were exposed." Jen Cohan



On Sunday afternoon, the Confirmation teens and their families had special time to experience the exhibit and reflect on which Miracles made the most impression on them and why.

"Joey was amazed by how many miracles there really are and took to two very important ones. The amazing display helped the kids learn more about the miracles." Allyson Vitale

"The Miracles of the Eucharist Exhibit was a truly spiritual and enlightening experience. I never realized there were so many miracles throughout the years. My only regret is that I didn't have enough time to read about all the miracles."

We hope this exhibit will help our families grow closer to Jesus and a deeper appreciation of the precious gift of the Eucharist. To experience the entire exhibition virtually, please click [HERE](#).

Scripture is alive!

"The Word became flesh." John 1:14

By Fr. Alex Nevitt

A journey of faith is exactly as the statement says, a journey. We go on an adventure of encounter and discovery. Sometimes our story will have lulls, but there are those mountain tops that enable us to get but a glimpse of the destination and reinvigorate our hearts and souls for the many challenges ahead of us. In such a way, I was strengthened this past week by an opportunity to join over 150 brother priests from around the United States at a four-day conference at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology in Austin

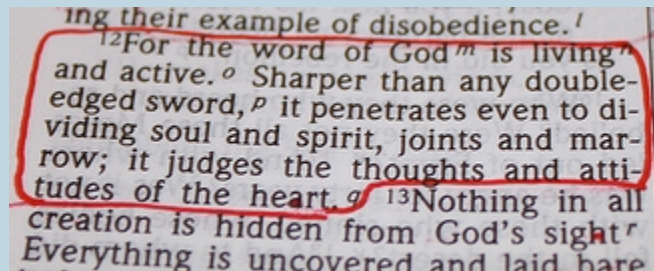


When we think about the formation of priests, the first part that comes to mind is often the seminary. And this is an intense part of any priest's formation, but it is in ongoing formation that priests *rekindle the gift received at ordination*. Some of the greatest agents of this ongoing formation are yourselves.



People sometimes forget that as a priest shepherd's a community and helps to configure his flock to Christ, the people also pray and work to form the priest into a better shepherd. Yet, this daily formation and growth must be accompanied by more intense learning moments.

At the conference, I was graced to encounter **Drs. Scott Hahn, John Bergsma, Larry Feingold, and Edward Sri** who are each amazing professors of scripture, but together form a coup de grace. They opened up scripture in new ways that I have not experienced since seminary. More so, scripture revealed itself to me under a new light of living out New Evangelization here at Notre Dame. But most importantly, I was graced to see, with the heart of a child of God, our Lord Jesus Christ alive in His word, seated next to our Queen Mother Mary and glorified most magnificently in the Eucharist.



This past weekend we heard the gospel of the disciple's journey to Emmaus. The Lord took His time to connect all the dots for us because we couldn't. All the elements were there, and they knew the scriptures but needed help to put them together. Christ is still here to connect the dots for us and put it all together. He does so in moments like this conference.



I wish to share the fruits of this conference, but a simple article couldn't contain all of it. In time I will be offering a study on Dr. Larry Feingold's incredible book on the Eucharist.

If you have allowed your heart to get dusty or your ship needs some bailing out, God is here for us; He always has been. He brings us a constant renewal of faith and life. I am thankful for the renewal I have received in my faith, and I am hopeful for the opportunity to share it. Life is a journey of faith we must all take. We sometimes get confused and even lost. But God is with us, He truly is alive among us!

Oneness: A Journey for Married Couples

By Tanya D'Souza

For a few years now, the Marriage Ministry has offered couples the opportunity to journey in a small group through Oneness, a beautiful series of faith and enlightenment focusing on specific aspects of marriage. This Lent, Erwin and I felt blessed to lead the series, accompanying four couples. As we had done this course as participants in 2018, this was also an excellent refresher for our marriage.



Marriage, though wonderful & holy, is not always easy. Falling in love is easy, but growing in love is much harder! Real-life issues impact every couple, but these may be resolved through the light of faith and the grace of matrimony. We are all in the same boat, striving to lead happy and holy lives.

We began by praying to The Holy Family for the grace to live together in love, peace, and harmony as they did. Our prayer was to equip us to build loving and long-lasting marriages that give all glory to God.



When we keep Christ at the center of our marriages -- when we women strive to imitate our Mother Mary (in her trust, humility, and total surrender to God), and when men seek to live like St Joseph (to be faithful and protect our families) that is when we allow God to work and the fruit of it all blossoms forth in happier marriages, healthier families and happier communities.

At each session, we watched a Oneness talk. We then had group discussions sharing experiences in a safe & sacred place. It was beautiful to witness the aha moments and listen to the new insights couples gained over the course of this series. We went on regular date nights, which built stronger bonds. We navigated through communication techniques, basic conflict resolution skills, what to do when worlds collide, etc. We learned about the importance of inviting Christ into our hearts and into every room in our homes, about smart loving, about the seasons in a marriage, and to practice the pause; if we are to hold on to an expectation in our marriages, to let it be grace. To show grace and make space for grace!



We enjoyed a beautiful potluck dinner at the home of Jill & Vincent Kellett. We spent a lovely evening breaking bread and sharing warm and wild stories of our lives and families. The star of the night was Jill & Vin's dog, Diesel. He was so friendly and not at all camera shy. We are thankful for new friendships in Christ!

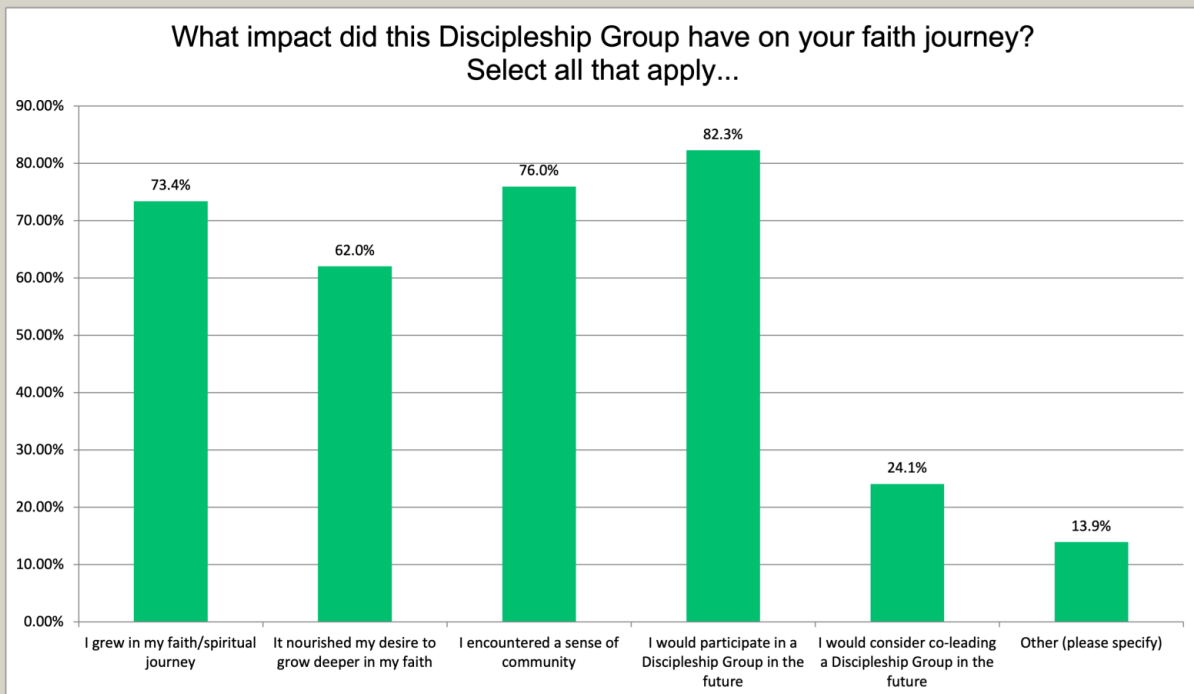
"We truly enjoyed the Marriage Oneness Group 2023. Tanya and Erwin created a great atmosphere and helped guide the group to embrace their "marriage Oneness" and spirituality. The sessions help to reaffirm how to continue to build a strong relationship that will last a lifetime. The program also reminded us to keep God in our marriage and love and cherish each other. We highly recommend the program to any couple." Jill & Vincent Kellett

We have been blessed to connect more deeply with all our couples. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35). Giving of our time and talent with this Oneness group has yet again confirmed that God is never outdone in generosity. Ministry leadership has strengthened our marriage and brought us closer to one another and our Lord.

Lenten Discipleship Groups: Survey Says...

In the past few weeks, we have heard testimonials from some of our leaders and participants in the Lenten Discipleship Group journey. Today we share key insights gathered via a quick and anonymous survey administered to the participants of 17 of the 19 Discipleship Groups (two of the groups, which are scripture-based journeys, are still underway).

- Of the 143 participants, 79 responded to the survey yielding a **55% response rate**.
- Of those who responded, **18% were first-time participants** in a Discipleship Group here at ND.



Participant ratings of key aspects of their Discipleship Group Journey:

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING	TOTAL
▼ The Overall Experience	89.87% 71	8.86% 7	1.27% 1	0.00% 0	79
▼ The content (video, book, presentation, handouts, etc.)	88.16% 67	10.53% 8	1.32% 1	0.00% 0	76
▼ Contributions of the leader(s)	93.59% 73	5.13% 4	1.28% 1	0.00% 0	78

Participants were also offered the opportunity to share comments about their experience; 62 of the 79 respondents (78%) shared their thoughts, reflecting consistency with the above assessments (i.e., overwhelmingly positive and affirming). Below are just a few:

"The leader did a fantastic job of guiding our journey. She helped us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit in order to see deeply what is happening around us."

"I wasn't familiar with the topic, so this was eye-opening. It showed me much about where I came from in relating to God & others. It also gave me insights into where others in my life might be coming from. This was all presented in a forgiving way and showed God's love for all of us!"

"Group leader excellent. Struck the perfect balance between offering relevant and meaningful input while encouraging others to do the same."

"I loved my group! I am sad that tonight is the last night. I grew so much in my prayer life. It was exactly what I needed to deepen my spiritual growth."

"How beautiful to be made aware that we are responding to Jesus' personal invitation to Mass to encounter Him in Eucharist."

"I was so surprised by how clutter and all our extra "stuff" related to our spirituality and the presence of God in our lives. We prayed, shared, and enjoyed laughter as we journeyed together. Patty was awesome! She created a peaceful, comfortable environment and prayerfully guided our discussion. I was blessed to be in this group!"

Discipleship Groups are vital to the path of Evangelization and Faith Formation (catechesis) in our parish. The variety of themes offered -- season after season, year after year -- have provided countless participants with opportunities to belong and grow in their faith and relationship with Christ and one another. At the same time, these small groups have offered excellent opportunities to raise new leaders, as participants feel called to lead a group or are invited to consider leading a journey! Our deepest gratitude to all the leaders who have shared their time, talent, and treasure in leading Discipleship Groups!

**This week's Mass
& Lamp Intentions**

**Parishioner
Announcements**

JOB BOARD & LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memories that share our story...

*Welcome to our Catholic Family, Joseph
Jin Orecchio!*



*Welcome to our Catholic Family, Ashton
Ellis Carrubba!*



Sing-Along Praise & Worship



11:30 am Mass





7:30 am Mass



Family Mass



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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